**Vacancies in CGHS dispensaries**

556. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several posts of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic pharmacists are lying vacant in the CGHS wing of Delhi as on 1st April, 2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Employment Exchange had sponsored the names of some candidates for the vacant post of Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic pharmacists in August, 2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for not conducting any interviews so far for the above mentioned posts; and

(d) by when the aforesaid posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

**Outbreak of Jaundice in Kerala**

557. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the outbreak of Jaundice in various districts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the place from where the Jaundice is reported and the number of people affected and died due to Jaundice in Kerala during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) the steps taken to contain the outbreak of Jaundice;

(d) whether the State sought any assistance to contain the outbreak of Jaundice; and

(e) if so, the details and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) As per information

furnished by Central Bureau of Health Investigation, the number of viral hepatitis cases and death reported by the State of Kerala were 5323 and 7 during 2002, 7433 and 9 during 2003 and 5405 and 2 during 2004 respectively.

Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, hygiene are some of the important causes of Jaundice. Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and treatment of Jaundice is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes such as Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Swajaldhara Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana — Rural Drinking Water, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention of control of outbreak of communicable diseases including Jaundice.

**Control of AIDS**

558. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by Government to check the growing menace of AIDS which is rapidly spreading in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored